II. SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 6 through page 1, line 9 as rewritten below:

B1

The present invention concerns a device for manipulating substrates inside and outside an ultraclean workroom ~~according to the preamble of claim 1~~.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 1 through page 2, line 4 as rewritten below:

B2

In order to solve this problem[[, in a]] an exemplary device is provided for manipulating substrates inside and outside an ultraclean workroom ~~of the type named initially, the features given in claim 1 are provided~~. The device comprises a sluice device provided between a storage room and ultraclean workroom by means of which a substrate cassette, accommodated under ultraclean room conditions in a box, can be removed from the box or reintroduced into this box. The device has a first manipulating device by means of which substrates can be placed and can be removed from a cassette. The storage room for a multiple number of cassette boxes is accommodated in a row and/or column arrangement.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 21 through page 2, line 23 as rewritten below:

B3

Additional work steps and time-saving combinations of work steps are then possible, ~~if the features according to claim 2 are provided~~ as will be described further below.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 1 through page 3, line 3 as rewritten below:

Advantageous embodiments of the locking units of the sluice device are produced by the exemplary features ~~of one or more of claims 3 to 7~~ The sluice device having one or more locking units that are independent of one another, and that the sluice door of each locking unit (18) is formed by a component of the cassette box. The sluice device maybe arranged in the floor of storage room or of the ceiling of ultraclean workroom, and the sluice door may be formed by a platform of the cassette box Alternatively, the sluice device may be arranged in a side wall of ultraclean workroom, and the sluice door may be formed in a hood of the cassette box.

B4

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 5 through page 5, line 7 as rewritten below:

One or more listing mechanisms are provided ~~according to the features of claim 8,~~ for simple manipulation of the substrate cassettes or cassette boxes.

B5

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 9 through page 3, line 18 as rewritten below:

According to the exemplary features of the device [[claim 9,]] the most varied work steps can be conducted individually or in combination, such as, for example, process steps, manufacturing steps, testing procedures, and sorting procedures, within the ultraclean workroom. New batches of substrates can also be

B6

combined in this way, according to the testing and/or sorting procedures and placed in the storage room. The first manipulation device embodied according to the features of claim 10 is of particular advantage for this purpose.

B4

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 20 through page 4, line 2 as rewritten below:

According to the exemplary features of the device [[claim 11], the storage room is provided with a plurality of storage spaces, which can be achieved by the second manipulation device together with one or more locking units and together with one or more input/output openings for the cassette boxes [[according to claim 13]] ~~Advantageous embodiments of this result from the features of one or more of claims 12 and 14 to 16~~.

B7

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 6 through page 5, line 26 as rewritten below:

The ultraclean workroom 15 has a housing 16, which has a parallelepiped form, for example, and which is hermetically sealed, and a sluice device 17 with one or more locking units 18 (only one locking unit 18 is shown in Fig. 1 for example purposes). A housing 21 is placed on housing 16 of ultraclean workroom 15, and this housing 21 contains or bounds a storage room 20. The sluice device 17 effects a manipulation transfer between storage room 20 and ultraclean workroom 15, without exchange of atmosphere. Storage room 20 is provided with one or more input/output openings 22, 23, which can be closed by means of a door 30, for introducing or removing cassette boxes 13. In the example of embodiment shown, two input/output openings 22 and 23 arranged next to one another are provided in the vicinity of floor 24 of housing 21. It is understood that input/output

B8

openings 22, 23 can be present in greater number and/or can be provided at other places of housing 21, for example, in the vicinity of its ceiling 25. Among other things, this depends on whether input/output openings 22, 23 are operated manually or automatically by means of a loading device.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 1 through page 8, line 25 as rewritten below:

In the example of embodiment of Figures 1 and 2, the one or more locking units 18 of sluice device 17 is or are formed at floor 24 of housing 21, which here forms an intermediate wall or ceiling of housings 16 and 21, provided directly above the arrangement of the one or more lifting devices 47. The locking unit 18 has a rotating support 61, on which can be tightly seated the lower edge 62 of a hood 64 of each cassette box 13. For the sluice-type introduction of substrate cassette 12 into the ultraclean workroom 15, the bottom 663 of the cassette is unlocked from hood 64 of cassette box 13, removed by rod 48 of lifting device 47, and cassette box 13 is lowered to the level of manipulating device 51, so that substrates 11 of cassette 12 can be manipulated. If several lifting devices 47 are provided in the case of several locking units 48 and thus several substrate cassettes 12 are to be manipulated simultaneously or sequentially within the ultraclean workspace 15, the individual substrate cassettes 17 can be newly loaded in a different way, so that new batches can be made up. A substrate cassette 12 is put back into its cassette box 13 in the appropriate reverse manner by means of lifting device 47, whereupon after locking cassette bottom 63 with hood 64, cassette box 13 can be introduced by means